SUBJECT No. 115.

Abolition of tax on kanas.

Messrs. Srinivas Sitaram Kulkarni Harihar Sub-Taluk and Shamanna Udupa, Shimoga District Board.

Summary of discussion.—The subject of entirely abolishing the tax on kanas was brought forward successively during the last four years. Last year, Government replied that a report had been received from the Revenue Commissioner and that early orders would be passed in the matter. It is again urged that orders may be passed entirely abolishing the said tax.

Reply of Government.—The matter is under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 116.

Grant of certain powers to inamdars.

Mr. Madappa, Mysore Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Occupants in inam villages do not attend to the repairs of bandhs and when bandhs are destroyed they encroach upon the neighbouring kharab lands, roads, and lanes. The taluk authorities have multifarious duties and cannot attend to this work. Inamdars may be authorised to levy a small fine in such cases.

Reply of Government.—By obtaining a commission under Section 99, clause (*f*) of the Land Revenue Code, the inamdar can acquire the necessary power to take measures for the maintenance and repair of boundary marks. The cost of repairing them may be recovered as an arrear of land revenue. Where no such power has been conferred the proper maintenance of the boundary marks in villages, surveyed and settled, devolves on the Deputy Commissioner as per Government Order No. 13448-9—R. F. 81-92, dated 27th January 1893, and may be enforced through the Amildar.

SUBJECT No. 117.

Collection of Government dues by shekdars.

Mr. Lakshminarasimhachar, Chamrajnagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Shekdars may also be empowered to collect kandayam and issue receipts, as this will facilitate the collection of Government dues and at the same time afford convenience to the raiyats.

Reply of Government.—Not necessary.

SUBJECT No. 118.

Reservation of a margin of 50 yards on both sides of streams.

Mr. H. Pilkington, The North Mysore Planters' Association.

Summary of discussion.—Mr. Pilkington.—I have been instructed by the North Mysore Planters' Association to say that we are anxiously awaiting the decision of Government on this, to us, most important point.

We do not ask for the total withdrawal of the rule, as we fully realize the necessity of control over head-waters, but we ask for its modification, permitting each case to be settled on its own merits. We met the Conservator in March last and received a most sympathetic hearing from him and we have every reason to believe that if his recommendations are carried out, Government interests will be safeguarded and the extension of planting not unduly interfered with.

Floods and scarcity of water are, I believe, being attributed to an imaginary denudation of forest on the ghats. I say imaginary, because you, sir, who know the ghats, know that no such denudation has ever taken place

in Mysore, but that on the other hand forest growth is largely and rapidly extending to the detriment of grazing land. It is stated that the south-west rains penetrated into the maidan districts better and more regularly 60 to 100 years ago. Is it a coincidence that this period coincides with the time when kumri cultivation was extensively practised and vast areas of forest were annually destroyed? In those districts too, vast areas which are now forest were under paddy cultivation. Can it be that the ghat forests check the advance and hold the rain from penetrating inland? Certain it is that the average rainfall on the ghats for the last three decades shows a steady increase. We think, therefore, that the rule as it stands is too sweeping and must interfere seriously with the industry, and we trust that it may be modified.

Reply of Government.—The matter is under consideration and has been referred for investigation to a Committee consisting of the Conservator of Forests, and the Deputy Commissioners of Mysore, Shimoga, Kadur and Hassan, in connection with a general investigation that is being made under the orders of the Government of India, on the influence of the clearance of forests on climate and rain-fall.

SUBJECT No. 119.

Sub-divisions of survey numbers.

Messrs. Mudlagiri Rao, Jagalur Taluk; Y. Rama Rao, Tumkur Municipality; V. Naranappa, Turuvekere Sub-Taluk; and Subba Setty, Hassan Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The prohibition to entertain applications for the sub-division of occupied lands after the revision settlement operates as a hardship on raiyats owning survey numbers of large extent and their hissedars. A minimum may therefore be fixed for the sub-division of occupied lands and applications entertained subject to the payment of prescribed fees. In the absence of such a rule, raiyats are not in a position to dispose of portions of their lands as they like.

The old Revenue Rules permitted the sub-division of survey numbers without limit for the purpose of transfer by sale, gift, and division among co-sharers. For the grant for cultivation, or for sale for arrears of revenue, or for relinquishment, the minima prescribed were in the case of dry lands, 2 acres, wet, ½ acre and garden, ¼ acre. The revised Land Revenue Rules of 1901 raised the minima to acres 6, 2 and 1, respectively. On a representation of the hardship caused by this increase in the minima and the refusal to sub-divide for the purposes of sale, etc., Government revised the scale, which in the case of the Tumkur District is for dry land, 4 acres, wet, 1 acre and garden, ½ acre. It is requested that these limits may be further reduced.

There may be several co-occupants in a holding, though the khate stands in the name of a single individual. The sub-division of lands within the prescribed minima